



Resolution

By the Honorable Sheila James Kuehl, 23rd Senatorial District;
Relative to Commending the

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

WHEREAS, On March 18, 1905, the California State Legislature approved the establishment of a Board of Forestry and the creation of the position of State Forester, and Edward Tyson Allan was named first State Forester; and

WHEREAS, In 1917, the first state nursery was established in Davis with a goal to provide seeds and seedlings from throughout California for reforestation and watershed protection; and

WHEREAS, In 1927, the Department of Natural Resources created the Division of Forestry; and

WHEREAS, In 1928, the State Division of Forestry acquired its first fire truck, a 1928 Moreland; and

WHEREAS, On September 1, 1931, the state suffered its first fire fatalities in the Division of Forestry as three firefighters died in the Coffee Mill Fire; and

WHEREAS, In 1946, the Division of Forestry established the first Conservation Camp to utilize inmates trained to fight fires in California; and

WHEREAS, In 1954, the State Division of Forestry tested the first air tankers on wildland fires using World War II trainers converted to spray planes; and

WHEREAS, In 1958, the State Division of Forestry first contracted for air tanker service with private aviation companies; and

WHEREAS, In 1961, the State Division of Forestry was moved into the newly-created Department of Conservation which fell under the newly-established Resources Agency; and

WHEREAS, In 1973, the Forest Practices Act was enacted giving the Division of Forestry the authority to regulate timber harvests on timberland; and

WHEREAS, In 1973, the first two Division of Forestry S2 Airtanker prototypes were placed into service; and

WHEREAS, In 1977, the Department of Forestry was created within the Resources Agency; and

WHEREAS, In 1987, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection was created in the Resources Agency; and

WHEREAS, Today, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection protects the state's forests with 3,800 full-time fire professionals, foresters, and administration employees, 1,400 seasonal firefighters, 5,600 local government volunteer fighters, 2,600 Volunteers in Prevention, and 4,300 inmates comprising 199 fire crews; and

WHEREAS, The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection operates over 1,095 fire engines, 215 rescue squads, 63 paramedic units, 12 HazMat units, 38 aerial ladder trucks, 58 bulldozers, and 5 mobile communication units; and

WHEREAS, Currently, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's air program includes 20 Grumman S-2T 1,200 gallon airtankers, 3 Grumman S-2A 800 gallon airtankers, 9 UH-1H Super Huey helicopters, and 13 OV-10A air attack aircraft, and from 13 air attack and 9 helitack bases located statewide, these aircraft are able to reach most fires within 20 minutes; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY SENATOR SHEILA JAMES KUEHL, That she recognizes and congratulates the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and its employees, past and present, on 100 years of service protecting our state's natural resources.

Member Resolution No. 419
Dated this 29th day of March, 2005.

Honorable Sheila James Kuehl
23rd Senatorial District